

PARENT BULLETIN: EASTER EDITION

Dear Parents,

Normally we send out our Spring newsletter today, wishing you a Happy Easter and looking back at the highlights of the term. Unfortunately, this year we are not able to do this, but we still want to send you a message of hope, support and thanks. We are really sad that some of the amazing summer activities and residentials that we had planned will have to be cancelled or postponed, but we will come back stronger and better from this. We will ensure that we have our brilliant and unique opportunities that we were so looking forward available for our students again in the future. When it is safe to do so.

The Easter Holidays can be a daunting time for parents when the world is moving at its usual pace, in these uncertain times they can be even more difficult. We hope that you have found our telephone calls, Free school meals vouchers and learning support helpful over the last couple of weeks? Teachers are not used to setting work remotely, we have been told to “teach” from home which we have not done before. We also know that some of our students cannot do worksheets and online resources, but we really do appreciate all that you have done in keeping in touch and completing work and projects where possible.

Over the holidays, Newfriars will be closed, but we will still will be monitoring our helpline daily. Form Tutors and Teachers have uploaded or sent out resources and activities for our students to complete. Teachers will not be setting work but Form Tutors will still be making contact weekly via Class dojo or telephone calls.

We hope families will use this time for their own benefit. Unless things change, the current arrangements for College will continue after the Easter Holidays, when our online learning support will continue. (Please see our Update for Parents and Carers document on <http://newfriarscollege.org.uk/>). We hopefully will have some activities in college for key workers and our most vulnerable learners. We do though think that our learners and staff are safer at home during this virus spread.

Sticking to a routine is really important to help your son or daughter manage their way through uncertainty. We have put a number of links and ideas in this bulletin which we hope you will find useful over the next two weeks. Try to find time to relax and have fun as a family, but also consider where possible to take up a new hobby, research an area you are interested in or just to read a book or play a game.

May I also take the opportunity, on behalf of all the staff at Newfriars, to say a big thank you to parents and carers for their supportive emails; it really gives teachers a boost during these difficult times. We really enjoy seeing all the photos and videos, please keep them coming! To all the key workers who are keeping us all going, whether it be NHS, food supply workers, engineers to essential services, emergency services, chemists, teachers, teaching assistants, lorry drivers, delivery drivers, care workers, and all who are volunteering to help others, we thank you.

In the very difficult circumstances, everyone from Newfriars hopes that you stay and well and find some time for yourself over the Easter break. Please stay safe, we are in this together and we can't wait to get back to College and our normal lives.

Rob Millington and All the Staff at Newfriars College



Helpful Links:

Usually paid-for things which are currently free: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/team-blog/2020/03/paid-for-things-they-ve-made-free-boxsets--audiobooks--fitness-c/>

Explore the planet mars at: <http://www.kids2.space/>

The Scouts have produced "The Great Indoors" Activities: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>

Roald Dahl activities: <https://www.roalddahl.com/things-to-do-indoors>

20 apps <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/mar/29/learning-apps-for-stir-crazy-kids-while-schools-are-closed>



Keeping children safe:

Visit the NSPCC website for lots of information on keeping your child safe eg Online Safety, peer-on-peer abuse, parental advice etc.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

Think U Know is a good source of online safety advice.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



YOUNGMINDS

You and Your family's mental health:

The Mental Health Foundation and Place 2 Be have lots of good advice to help you in talking to your child about the situation

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/talking-to-children>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-advice-for-families-staying-at-home/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

COVID-19 10 ACTIVITIES FOR HOME WITH SCHEDULE

3ppsychologies.com
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TALK & LISTEN,
BE THERE,
FEEL CONNECTED



DO WHAT YOU CAN,
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO,
MOVE YOUR MOOD



REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE
THINGS THAT
GIVE YOU JOY



EMBRACE NEW
EXPERIENCES,
SEE OPPORTUNITIES,
SURPRISE YOURSELF



Your time,
your words,
your presence

